THE SNAKE THAT HELD A CITY CAPTIVE!

TALES OF TERROR

TALES OF HORROR

MINOAN

No. 8

10¢

ANC

Supermouse
STARTLING COMICS
JETTA
MYSTERY COMICS
FANTASTIC TALES
COSMO CAT
STARTLING COMICS
STRANGE MYSTERIES
DARING ADVENTURES
STARTLING COMICS
MYSTERY Tales
EXCITING COMICS
Famous Funnies
STRANGE WORLDS
WEBCOMIC UNIVERSE.COM
JETTA
STARTLING COMICS
MYSTERY Tales
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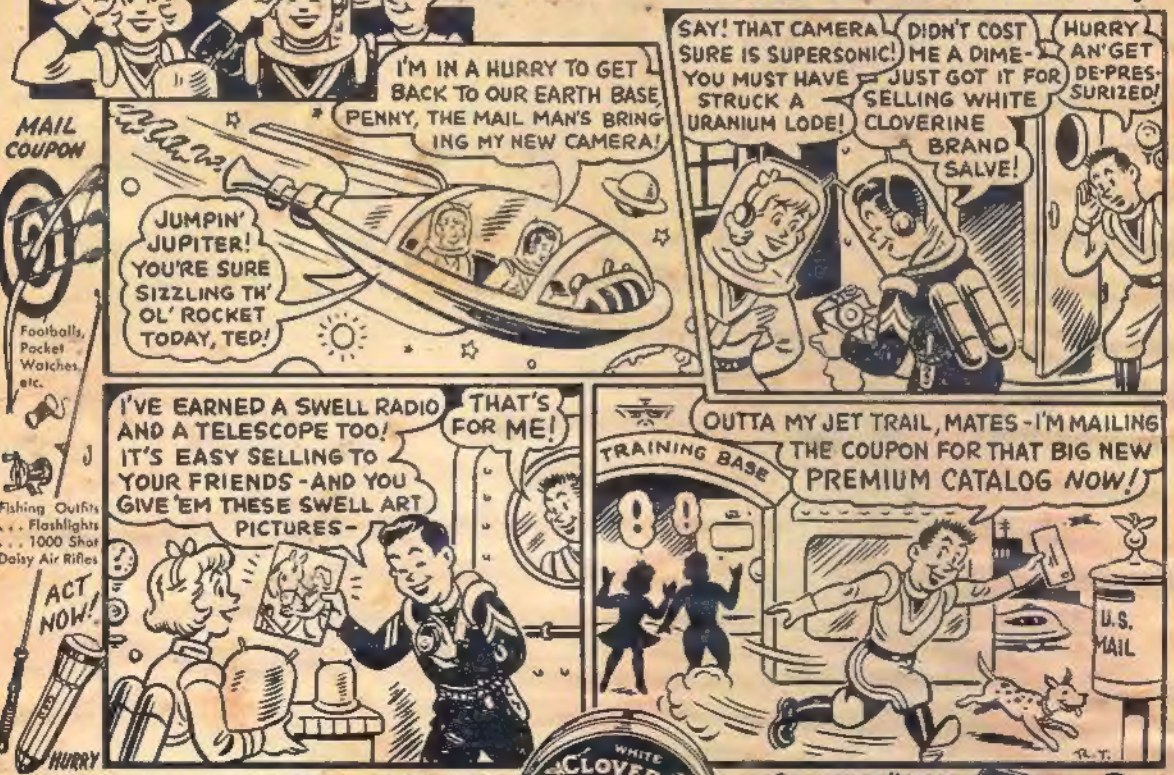
BARNYARD COMICS
EXCITING COMICS
EERIE
EXCITING COMICS
CASPER CAT
DARING ADVENTURES

JUNIOR SPACE PILOTS ON THE BEAM!

GIVEN!

BOYS! GIRLS! LADIES! MEN!

WE GIVE YOU CASH OR PREMIUMS!



WE ARE RELIABLE! Cameras, Corn Poppers, Speedball Cartoon Sets, Aluminum Ware, Blankets (sent postage paid). Mail coupon for SALVE and pictures to start.

ACT NOW Ukeleles, Watches, Lovable Dolls.

WHITE CLOVERINE BRAND SALVE PRICE 35¢

OUR 58th YEAR Alarm Clocks, Pen & Pencil Sets, etc. Mail coupon.

ACT NOW Radios, Candid Cameras with carrying cases, Telescopes, Roller Skates (sent postage paid) . . . Mail coupon to start.

LET'S GO!

MAIL COUPON! GET BIG CATALOG! Candid Cameras with carrying case, Telescopes, Watches (sent postage paid). SIMPLY GIVE pictures with White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE easily sold to friends, neighbors, relatives at 35c a box (with picture). Alarm Clocks, Pen & Pencil Sets, Bibles, Billfolds, Telescopes, Roller Skates, Blankets, Aluminum Ware, Record Players. Movie Machines (postage pd.). Rush coupon to start!

Guaranteed by Good Housekeeping

LET'S GO!

BE FIRST Food Choppers, Carving Sets, Bibles. Mail coupon.

LOOK!

WE TRUST YOU! .22 Cal. Rifles, Archery Sets, School Boxes, Wallets. Mail coupon for SALVE and pictures to start.

LET'S GO! Footballs, Telescopes (sent postage paid). Boys', Girls' Bicycles (express chgs. collect).

ACT NOW! Boys', Girls' Wrist Watches, Baking Sets, Typewriters, etc.

Lucite Dresser Sets, Cook Books, etc.

ACT NOW!

WE TRUST YOU — OUR 58th YEAR

MAIL NOW!

Wilson Chemical Co., Dept. 76, Tyrone, Pa. Date.....

Gentlemen: Please send me on trial 14 colorful art pictures with 14 boxes of White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE to sell at 35c a box (with picture). I will remit amount asked within 30 days, select a Premium or keep Cash Commission as explained under Premium wanted in catalog sent with order, postage paid to start.

NAME ..... AGE .....

ST. ..... R. D. ..... BOX .....

TOWN ..... ZONE NO. ..... STATE .....

PRINT LAST NAME HERE

Paste coupon on postal card or mail in envelope today

OUR 58th YEAR - WE ARE RELIABLE! MAIL →

TALES OF HORROR, No. 8, DECEMBER, 1953. Published by MINOAN PUBLISHING CORP., 17 East 45th Street, New York 17, N. Y. Mel Lazarus, Art Director. Benton J. Resnik, General Manager.

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☐ I enclose 50¢ for Big-3 Coupon Offer above.
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Name .....

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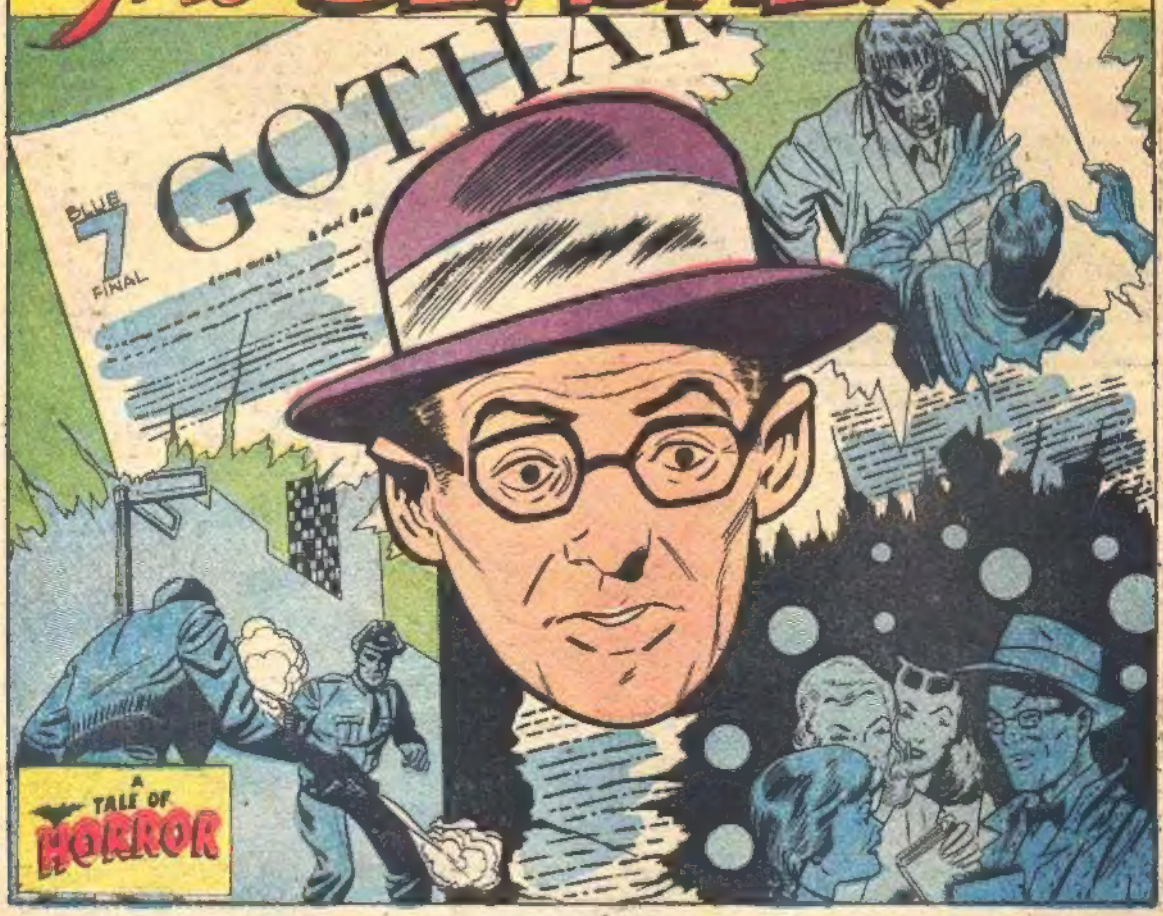
TED TEMPLER...A HUMDRUM GUY WITH A HUMDRUM JOB LIKE COUNTLESS OTHERS HAD FOUND A WAY TO ESCAPE THE DRABNESS OF HIS EXISTENCE, IN THE SCREAMING HEADLINES OF THE BIG CITY'S NEWSPAPERS. THIS IS HIS STORY... A STRANGE TALE OF A MAN WITH MANY LIVES...

"The SLASHER!"



ONE DAY HE WAS A FAMOUS SOCIALITE...

THE NEXT DAY HE WAS A DARING REPORTER...

YES, TED TEMPLER LIVED COUNTLESS LIVES, ABSORBING LIKE A SPONGE THOSE PERSONALITIES WHOM HE HEARD...OR SAW...
FRIENDS, YOU HAVE JUST SEEN AN EXHIBITION BY THE WORLD'S GREATEST JUDO EXPERT...
WHAT IF I WERE A JUDO EXPERT...?

I'D MAKE PEOPLE LOOK UP TO ME... I'D...
WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOIN' BUSTER!
UH...SORRY!

WHY,... I JUST..
YOU JUST KEEP GOIN' BEFORE YOU GET HURT!
TELL 'IM, JACK!

THAT BIG PUNK! ...AND THE WAY THAT GIRL LOOKED AT ME...LIKE I WAS DIRT!

WHY, WITH MY JUDO I COULD KILL HIM!

DON'T HURT ME AGAIN... PLEASE!
YOU'RE WONDERFUL, TED!
THAT'LL TEACH HIM TO PLAY AROUND WITH TED TEMPLER, THE WORLD'S GREATEST JUDO EXPERT!

EVEN ON THE JOB, TED PURSUED THE HEADLINES.
...AND FOR HIS WORK ON THE CRIME, PATROLMAN BANNA WAS PERSONALLY COMMENDED BY THE COMMISSIONER.
FOR YOUR BRAVERY, PATROLMAN TEMPLER, I AWARD YOU THIS MEDAL AND THE RANK OF SERGEANT!
THANK YOU, COMMISSIONER!
TEMPLER, I'D LIKE TO HAVE THESE REPORTS OUT TONIGHT!
YES SIR, COMMISSIONER... EH, UH, YES SIR, MR. WILLIAMS! I...UH...WAS THINKING OF SOMETHING ELSE!
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, TED? DOWN AT CITY HALL?
MAYBE TED THINKS HE'S THIS HERO COP! HA! HA!
THE FOOLS! LET THEM LAUGH. SOMEDAY I'LL SHOW THEM!
THAT NIGHT, STILL SMOLDERING FROM THE TAUNTS OF HIS FELLOW WORKERS, TED TRIED TO LOSE HIMSELF IN THE LATEST HEADLINES.
DAYLIGHT BANDIT SHOOTS DOWN TWO PERSONS IN DARING ROBBERY
SOME PEOPLE SHOULD BE SHOT! I WONDER HOW IT FEELS TO REALLY KILL SOMEBODY!

THE NEXT MORNING...
EXTRA! KNIFE KILLER CLAIMS VICTIM! EXTRA!
HERE, LET ME HAVE ONE OF THOSE!
HMMM-M, NO CLUES... THE KILLER GOT AWAY.
YEAH. BUT THEY'LL GET 'IM!
BUT THAT KILLING WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING!
ANOTHER KNIFING!
YEAH! LOOK HOW THE POOR GUY WAS CUT UP!
AUGUST 21
AUGUST 24
MAKE SURE THAT DOOR IS LOCKED TIGHT, MR. TEMPLER! THEY FOUND ANOTHER ONE SLASHED TO BITS. I'M AFRAID TO GO OUT AFTER DARK!
AUGUST 26
THE TOLL OF BRUTAL KNIFINGS STILL RISES. AS YET NOBODY HAS BEEN ABLE TO DESCRIBE THE SLASHER, BUT...
SEPT. 6

AND SINCE THE POLICE HAVE FAILED SO DISMALLY TO CATCH THE SLASHER, MAYBE SOME PRIVATE CITIZEN CAN COME FORWARD WITH SOME HELPFUL INFORMATION!
WHAT IF I CAUGHT THE SLASHER!
THE SLASHER!
TRY TO MAKE TED TEMPLER YOUR VICTIM EH? I'LL JUST TAKE THAT KNIFE...
TED TEMPLER HERO! SLASHER CAUGHT, BY BOOKKEEPER
METROPOLI
MAYOR TO MEET HERO TED TEMPLER
WHAT WOULD THE SLASHER LOOK LIKE? HEAVY BROWS, PROBABLY, THIN LIPS... WILD EYES...
YES! THAT'S IT! THAT'S WHAT THE SLASHER LOOKS LIKE!

ANYTHING IN THE PAPERS ABOUT THE SLASHER? THEY HAVEN'T CAUGHT HIM YET, HAVE THEY?
NAW! HEY, YOU SOUND LIKE YOU DON'T WANT HIM CAUGHT!

HA! HA! I DON'T! THE MORE HE KILLS THE BIGGER THE HEADLINES WHEN I CATCH HIM!

OBSESSED WITH THE IDEA OF THE SLASHER TED HAUNTS THE STREETS LOOKING FOR THE FACE THAT WOULD RESEMBLE HIS SKETCH.

UH... EXCUSE ME. HAVE YOU SEEN THIS MAN IN HERE?
NAW! AND TAKE THAT PICTURE OUTTA HERE! IT GIVES ME THE CREEPS!

THEN SUDDENLY, THE KILLINGS STOPPED.
THE FACT THAT THE SLASHER IS INACTIVE DOESN'T MEAN HE STILL ISN'T AROUND. HE MAY KILL AGAIN, SO KEEP ON YOUR TOES.

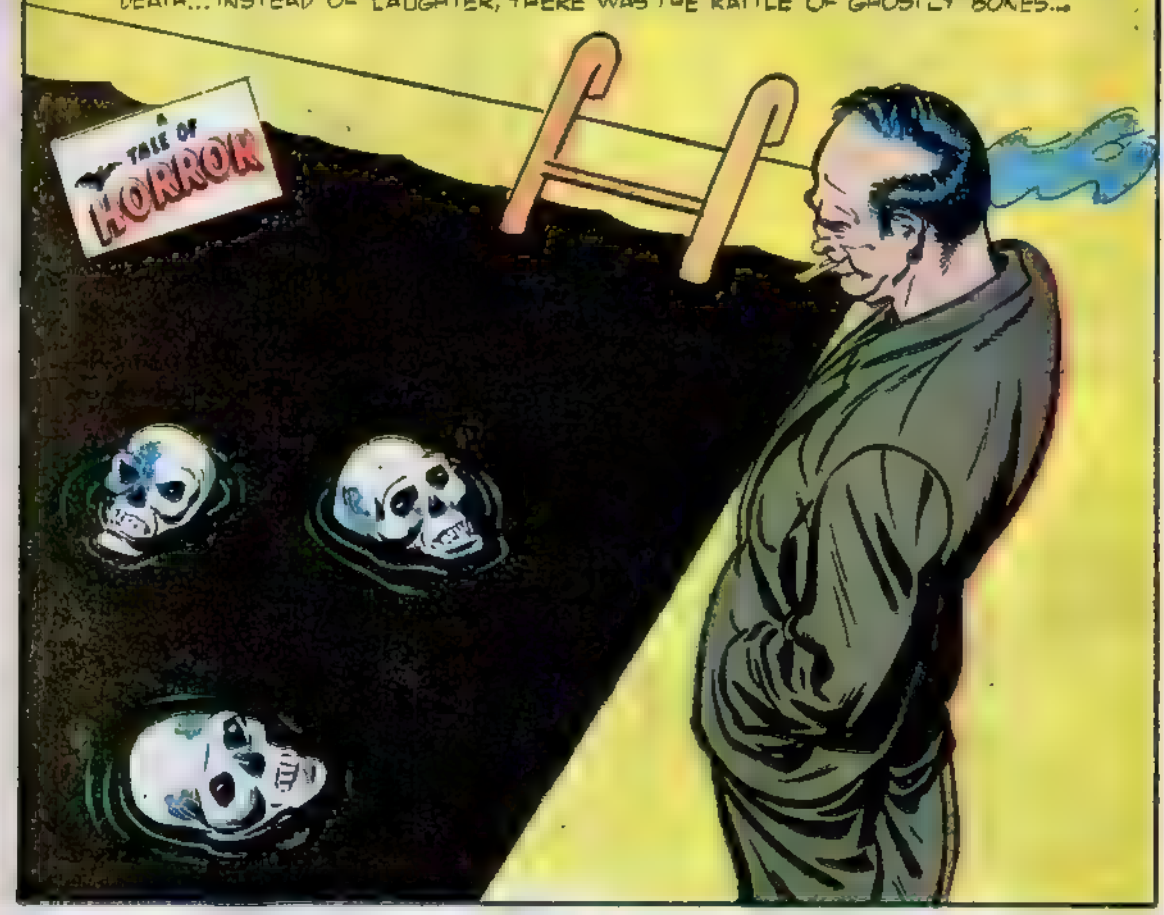
AND TED, NO LONGER INTERESTED IN THE USUAL RUN OF HEADLINES, FRETTED RESTLESSLY.
BAH! WHO WANTS TO READ THAT TRASH? WHY DOESN'T THE SLASHER KILL AGAIN?

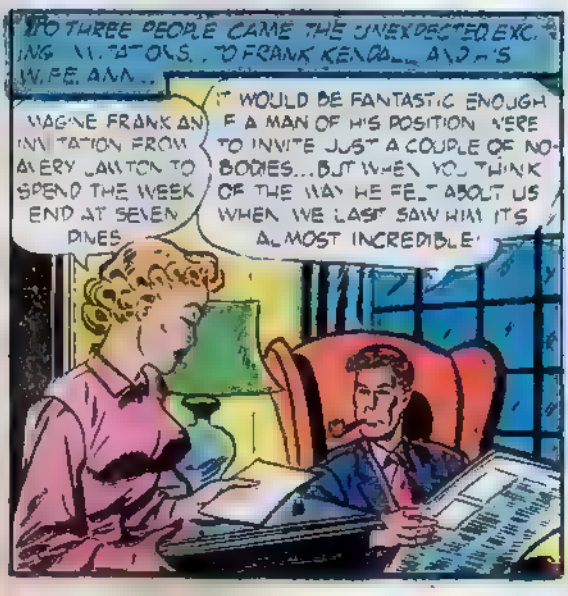
I NEED EXCITEMENT! I HAVEN'T HAD A DATE FOR A LONG TIME... THINK I'LL GO TO THE GRAND LAND DANCE HALL!
HMM-M... BETTER SHAVE. I'LL TREAT MYSELF TO ONE IN A BARBER SHOP. IT'S SATURDAY NIGHT... I'LL SPLURGE!
GRAND LAND DANCE HALL
50 GIRLS
I SEE YOUR SHADES ARE DRAWN IS IT TOO LATE TO GET A SHAVE?
NO GET IN THAT CHAIR I'LL BE RIGHT WITH YOU
CLOSING HIS EYES, TED RELAXED IN THE CHAIR...
I HAD NO IDEA IT WAS SO LATE...
IT IS ALWAYS LATER THAN WE THINK... YOU MUST AGREE TO THAT!
TED OPENED HIS EYES TO REPLY.....

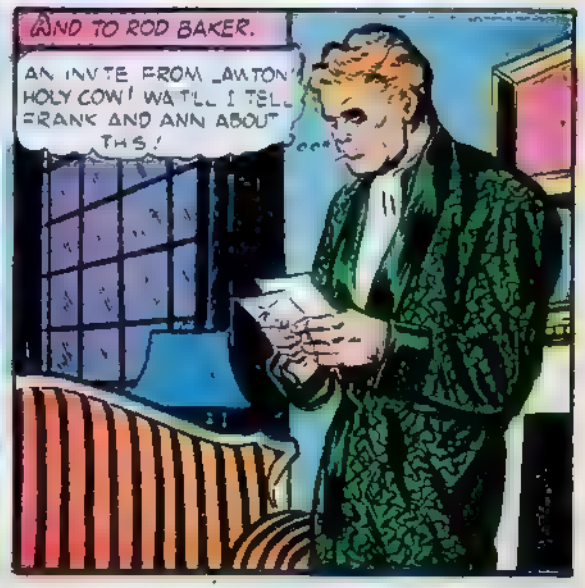
POOL OF THE SKELETONS

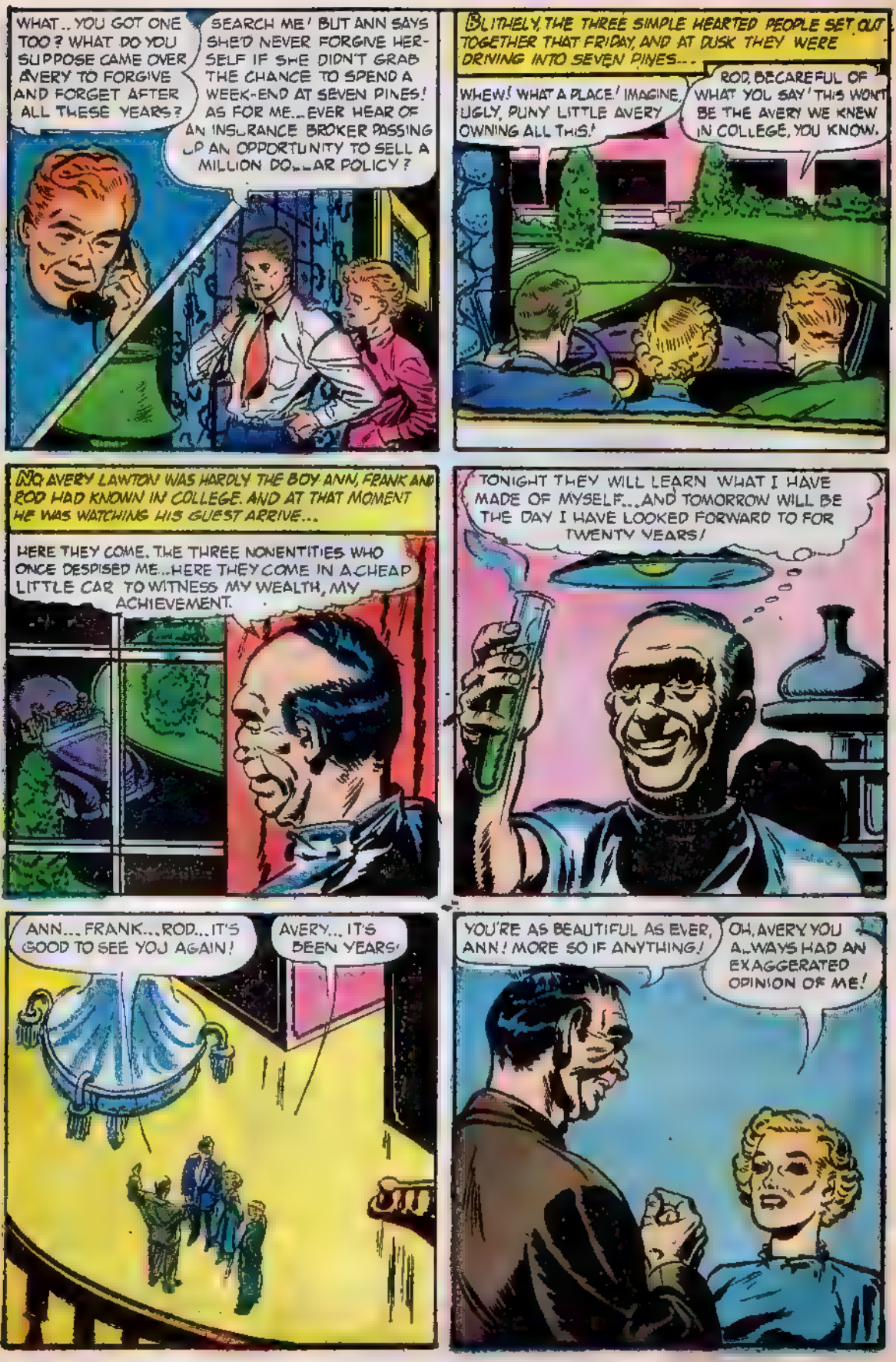
IT WAS TO BE A FABULOUS WEEK-END HOUSE PARTY... BUT INSTEAD OF GAYETY THERE WAS DEATH... INSTEAD OF LAUGHTER, THERE WAS THE RATTLE OF GHOSTLY BONES...

A TALE OF HORROR





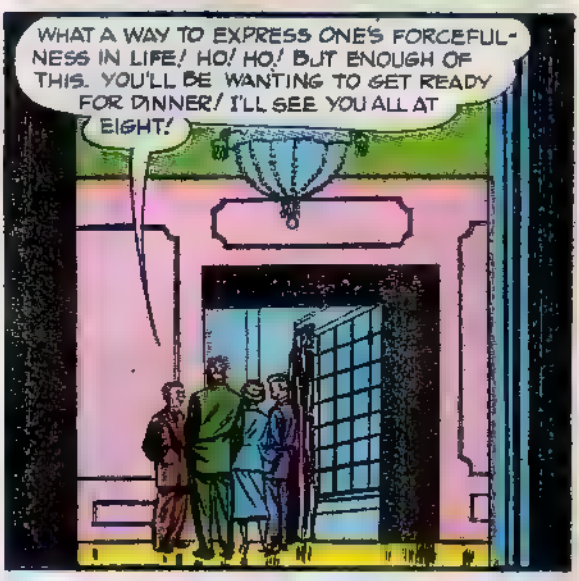



WHAT.. YOU GOT ONE TOO? WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE CAME OVER AVERY TO FORGIVE AND FORGET AFTER ALL THESE YEARS?
SEARCH ME! BUT ANN SAYS SHE'D NEVER FORGIVE HERSELF IF SHE DIDN'T GRAB THE CHANCE TO SPEND A WEEK-END AT SEVEN PINES! AS FOR ME... EVER HEAR OF AN INSURANCE BROKER PASSING UP AN OPPORTUNITY TO SELL A MILLION DOLLAR POLICY?
BLITHELY, THE THREE SIMPLE HEARTED PEOPLE SET OUT TOGETHER THAT FRIDAY, AND AT DUSK THEY WERE DRIVING INTO SEVEN PINES...
WHEW! WHAT A PLACE! IMAGINE, UGLY, PUNY LITTLE AVERY OWNING ALL THIS!
ROD, BE CAREFUL OF WHAT YOU SAY! THIS WON'T BE THE AVERY WE KNEW IN COLLEGE, YOU KNOW.
NO, AVERY LAWTON WAS HARDLY THE BOY ANN, FRANK AND ROD HAD KNOWN IN COLLEGE. AND AT THAT MOMENT HE WAS WATCHING HIS GUEST ARRIVE...
HERE THEY COME. THE THREE NONENTITIES WHO ONCE DESPISED ME... HERE THEY COME IN A CHEAP LITTLE CAR TO WITNESS MY WEALTH, MY ACHIEVEMENT.
TONIGHT THEY WILL LEARN WHAT I HAVE MADE OF MYSELF... AND TOMORROW WILL BE THE DAY I HAVE LOOKED FORWARD TO FOR TWENTY YEARS!
ANN... FRANK... ROD... IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN!
AVERY... IT'S BEEN YEARS!
YOU'RE AS BEAUTIFUL AS EVER, ANN! MORE SO IF ANYTHING!
OH, AVERY YOU ALWAYS HAD AN EXAGGERATED OPINION OF ME!

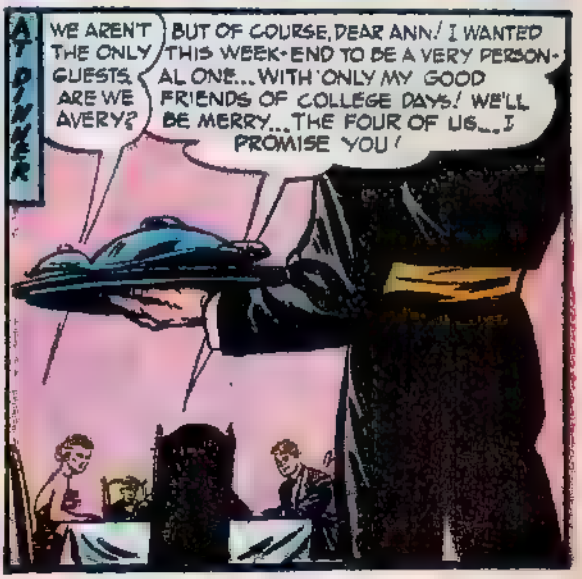
AND FRANK, THE BOY WHO WAS SO GOOD-LOOKING. I DIDN'T STAND A CHANCE OF WINNING ANN IN COMPETITION WITH HIM! HAVE YOU MADE ANN HAPPY, FRANK?
I'VE TRIED TO, AVERY! WHAT MORE CAN A MAN DO?

AND GOOD, OLD ROD... STRONG, VIRILE ROD ...YOU USED TO MAKE ME FEEL LIKE A PUNY WORM!
NOW, AVERY...!

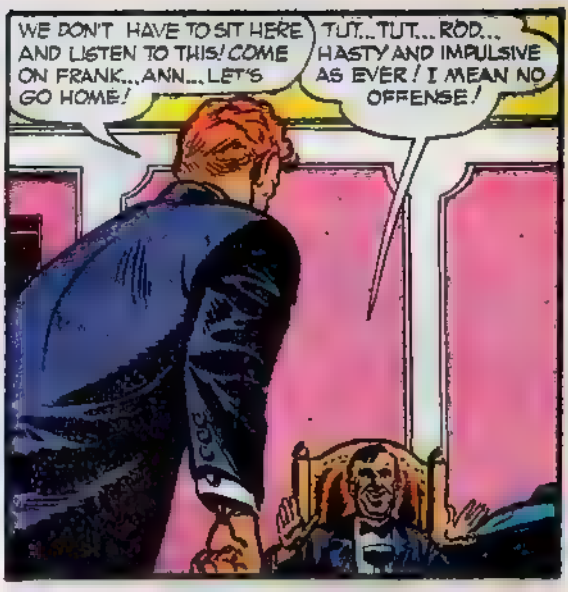
HA! HA! REMEMBER THE TIME I TRIED TO FIGHT YOU BECAUSE YOU CALLED ME A PUNY LITTLE RUNT WHAT A BEATING I TOOK! WHAT DO YOU DO NOW, ROD?
I'M A GYMNASIUM INSTRUCTOR IN A MEN'S HEALTH CLUB!


WHAT A WAY TO EXPRESS ONE'S FORCEFULNESS IN LIFE! HO! HO! BUT ENOUGH OF THIS. YOU'LL BE WANTING TO GET READY FOR DINNER! I'LL SEE YOU ALL AT EIGHT!

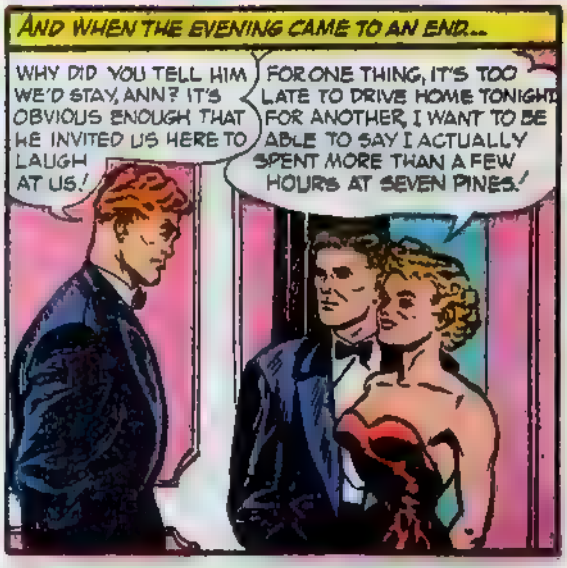
LATER
AVERY GAVE ME A PECULIAR FEELING! I DIDN'T LIKE THE WAY HE SEEMED TO BE GLOATING OVER US!
I CAUGHT IT TOO! BUT WE DID GIVE HIM A HARD TIME IN COLLEGE! YOU CAN'T BLAME HIM FOR WANTING TO GLOAT A LITTLE!

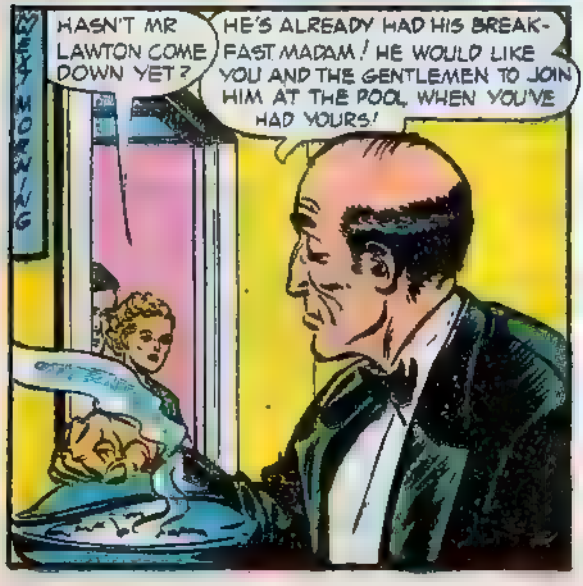

AT DINNER
WE AREN'T THE ONLY GUESTS, ARE WE AVERY?
BUT OF COURSE, DEAR ANN! I WANTED THIS WEEK-END TO BE A VERY PERSONAL ONE... WITH ONLY MY GOOD FRIENDS OF COLLEGE DAYS! WE'LL BE MERRY... THE FOUR OF US... I PROMISE YOU!

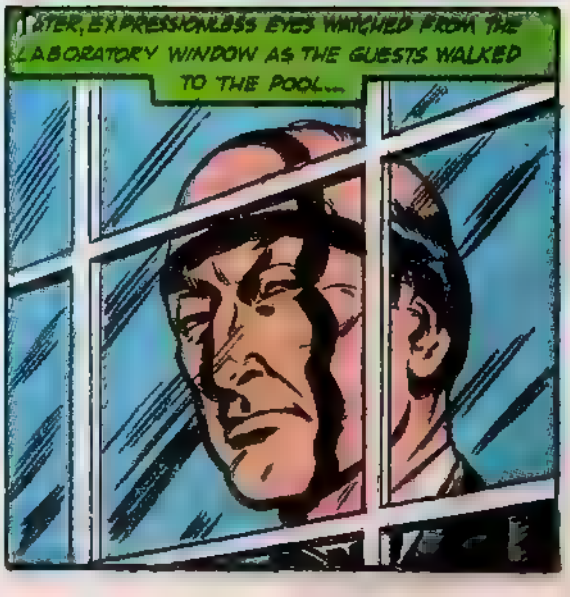
BUT AS THE EVENING WORE ON, IT WAS FAR FROM MERRY!
I WAS NOTHING IN COLLEGE... BUT NOW... NOW I'M THE WEALTHIEST CHEMICAL MANUFACTURER IN THE WORLD! EVERYDAY, I AND THE SCIENTISTS I EMPLOY FIND STRANGE NEW FORMULAE TO CHANGE MEN'S LIVES! AND YOU... YOU ARE NOTHING... NOTHING!


WE DON'T HAVE TO SIT HERE AND LISTEN TO THIS! COME ON FRANK... ANN... LET'S GO HOME!
TUT... TUT... ROD... HASTY AND IMPULSIVE AS EVER! I MEAN NO OFFENSE!

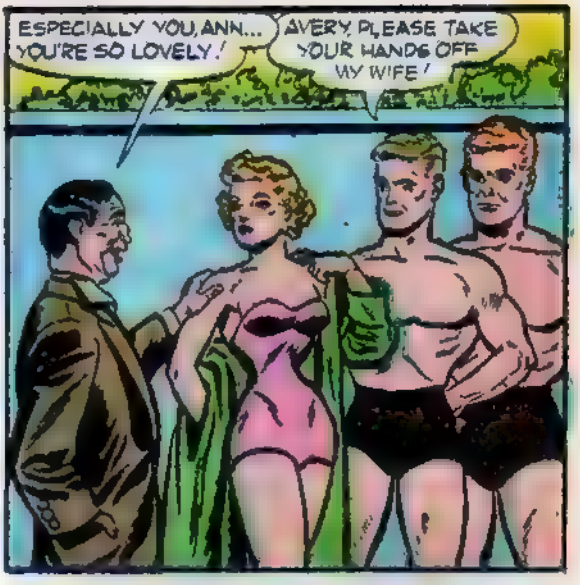
OF COURSE YOU'LL STAY! I PROMISE TO SAY NOTHING BUT NICE THINGS ABOUT MY DEAR OLD FRIENDS!
ALL RIGHT, IF YOU PROMISE, AVERY!

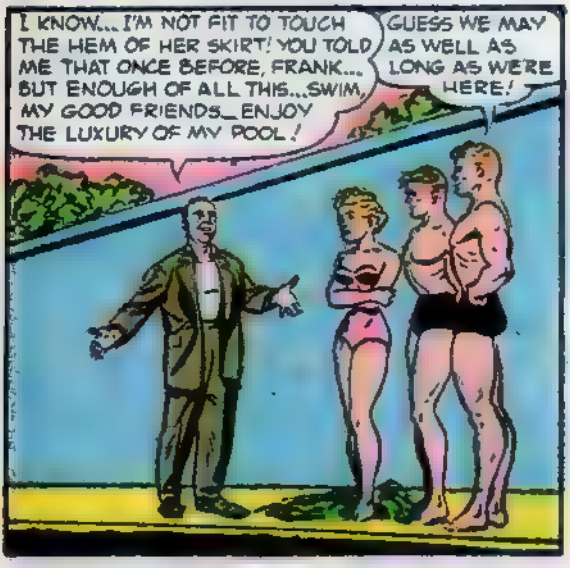

AND WHEN THE EVENING CAME TO AN END...
WHY DID YOU TELL HIM WE'D STAY, ANN? IT'S OBVIOUS ENOUGH THAT HE INVITED US HERE TO LAUGH AT US!
FOR ONE THING, IT'S TOO LATE TO DRIVE HOME TONIGHT! FOR ANOTHER, I WANT TO BE ABLE TO SAY I ACTUALLY SPENT MORE THAN A FEW HOURS AT SEVEN PINES!

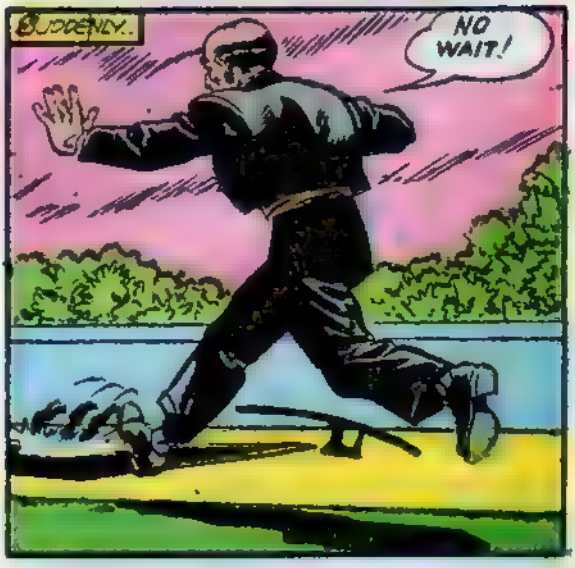

NEXT MORNING
HASN'T MR LAWTON COME DOWN YET?
HE'S ALREADY HAD HIS BREAKFAST MADAM! HE WOULD LIKE YOU AND THE GENTLEMEN TO JOIN HIM AT THE POOL, WHEN YOU'VE HAD YOURS!


...ATER, EXPRESSIONLESS EYES WATCHED FROM THE LABORATORY WINDOW AS THE GUESTS WALKED TO THE POOL...

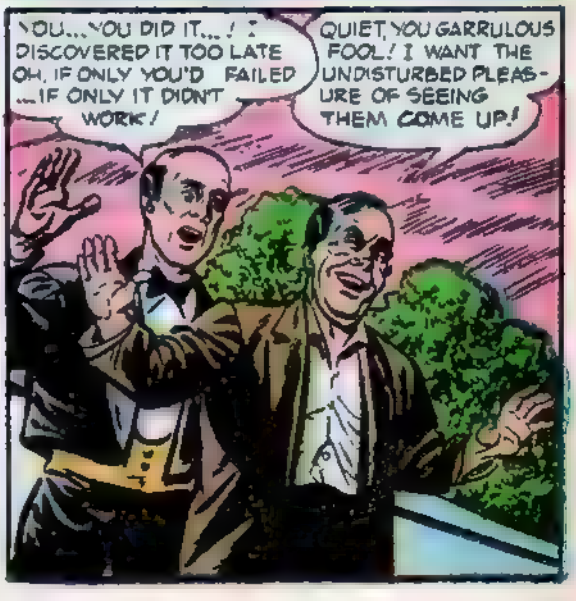
AVERY, YOU WANTED US TO MEET YOU HERE...BUT YOU AREN'T GOING SWIMMING?
OF COURSE NOT! CAN YOU IMAGINE HOW I'D LOOK IN BATHING TRUNKS ALONGSIDE YOU THREE?

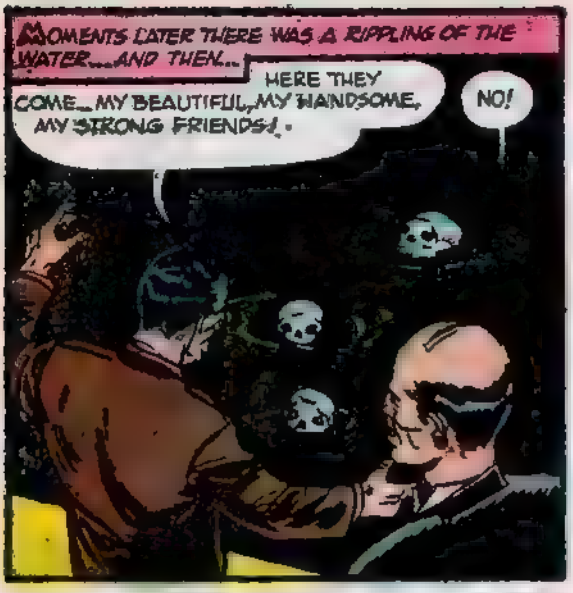

ESPECIALLY YOU, ANN... YOU'RE SO LOVELY!
AVERY, PLEASE TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF MY WIFE!


I KNOW... I'M NOT FIT TO TOUCH THE HEM OF HER SKIRT! YOU TOLD ME THAT ONCE BEFORE, FRANK... BUT ENOUGH OF ALL THIS...SWIM, MY GOOD FRIENDS... ENJOY THE LUXURY OF MY POOL!
GUESS WE MAY AS WELL AS LONG AS WE'RE HERE!

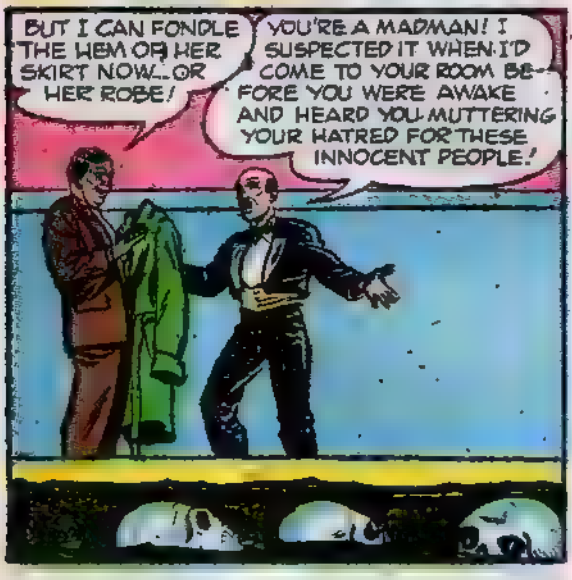

SUDDENLY..
NO WAIT!

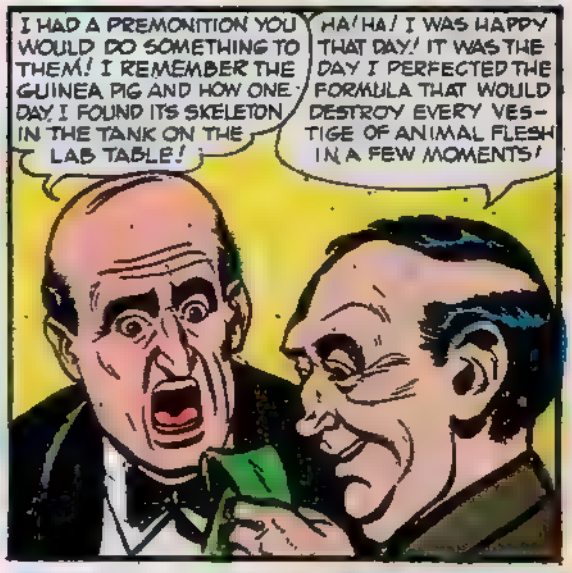
HA! HA! HA! A BEAUTIFUL DIVE, MY FRIENDS... A VERY BEAUTIFUL DIVE!


YOU...YOU DID IT...! I DISCOVERED IT TOO LATE OH, IF ONLY YOU'D FAILED ...IF ONLY IT DIDN'T WORK!
QUIET, YOU GARRULOUS FOOL! I WANT THE UNDISTURBED PLEASURE OF SEEING THEM COME UP!


MOMENTS LATER THERE WAS A RIPPLING OF THE WATER...AND THEN...
HERE THEY COME... MY BEAUTIFUL, MY HANDSOME, MY STRONG FRIENDS!
NO!

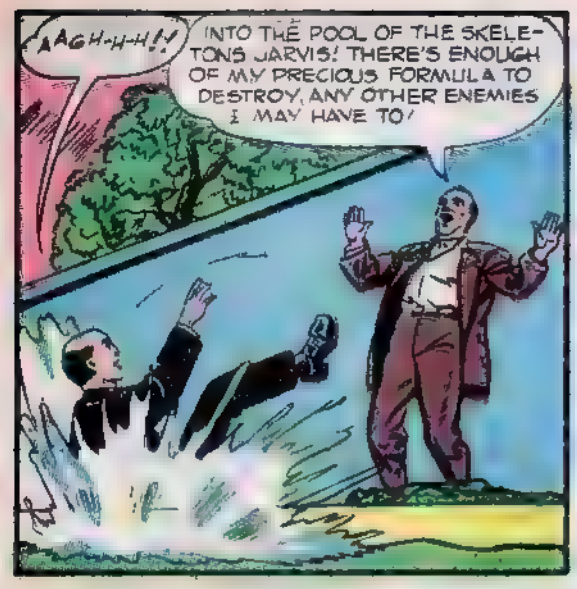
LOOK AT THEM! HA! HA! HA! THE POWERFUL ROD BAKER! THE OH SO HANDSOME FRANK KENDALL... AND LOVELY ANN, THE HEM OF WHOSE SKIRT I WAS UNFIT TO TOUCH!
YOU MONSTER!

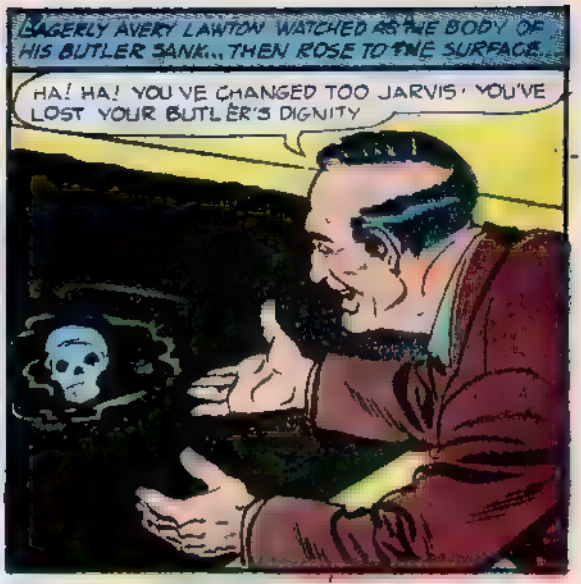

BUT I CAN FONDLE THE HEM OF HER SKIRT NOW...OR HER ROBE!
YOU'RE A MADMAN! I SUSPECTED IT WHEN I'D COME TO YOUR ROOM BEFORE YOU WERE AWAKE AND HEARD YOU MUTTERING YOUR HATRED FOR THESE INNOCENT PEOPLE!


I HAD A PREMONITION YOU WOULD DO SOMETHING TO THEM! I REMEMBER THE GUINEA PIG AND HOW ONE DAY I FOUND ITS SKELETON IN THE TANK ON THE LAB TABLE!
HA! HA! I WAS HAPPY THAT DAY! IT WAS THE DAY I PERFECTED THE FORMULA THAT WOULD DESTROY EVERY VESTIGE OF ANIMAL FLESH IN A FEW MOMENTS!

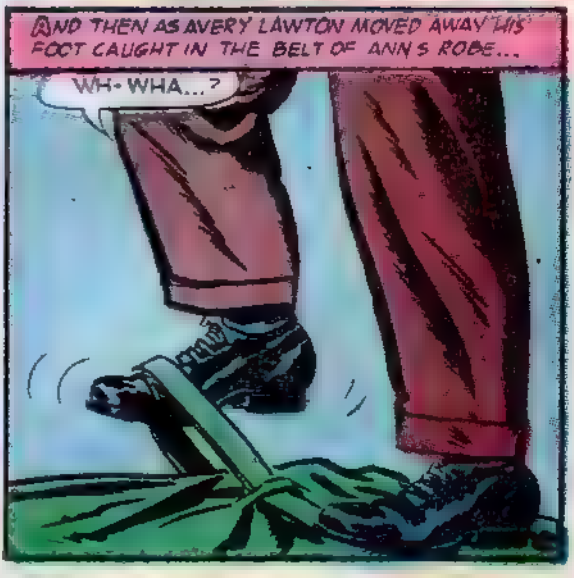
SOMETHING TOLD ME TO GO TO THE LABORATORY A LITTLE WHILE AGO... IF ONLY I HAD DONE IT SOONER I'D HAVE KNOWN WHAT YOU WERE PLANNING!
I KNEW YOU'D BEEN SPYING ON ME! IT'S THE REASON I DIDN'T SEND YOU AWAY TODAY... BECAUSE I'D HAVE TO DESTROY YOU ANYWAY!

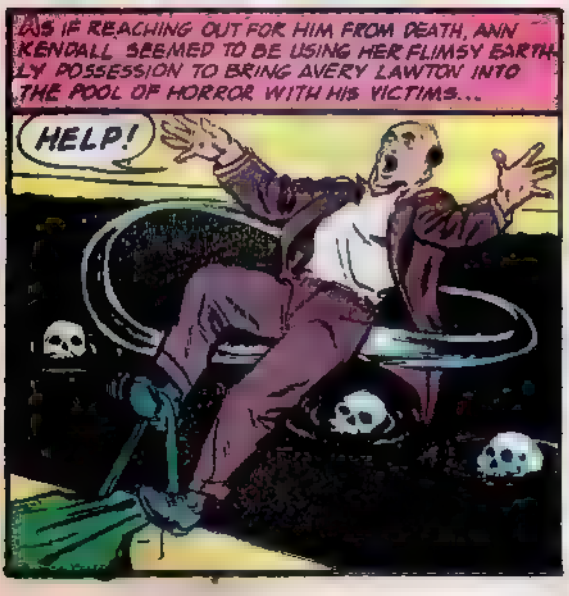
IN FACT I'M GOING TO DO IT RIGHT NOW!


AAGH-H-H!!
INTO THE POOL OF THE SKELETONS JARVIS! THERE'S ENOUGH OF MY PRECIOUS FORMULA TO DESTROY ANY OTHER ENEMIES I MAY HAVE TO!


EAGERLY AVERY LAWTON WATCHED AS THE BODY OF HIS BUTLER SANK... THEN ROSE TO THE SURFACE...
HA! HA! YOU'VE CHANGED TOO JARVIS! YOU'VE LOST YOUR BUTLER'S DIGNITY

MY BEAUTIFUL POOL OF SKELETONS! TOO BAD I'LL HAVE TO REMOVE THESE SHINY BONES BEFORE THE OTHER SERVANTS RETURN! BUT THERE'S TIME... I SHALL SIT DOWN AND ENJOY THE SPECTACLE!


AND THEN AS AVERY LAWTON MOVED AWAY HIS FOOT CAUGHT IN THE BELT OF ANN'S ROBE...
WH-WHA...?


AS IF REACHING OUT FOR HIM FROM DEATH, ANN KENDALL SEEMED TO BE USING HER FLIMSY EARTHLY POSSESSION TO BRING AVERY LAWTON INTO THE POOL OF HORROR WITH HIS VICTIMS...
HELP!

AND A MOMENT LATER, THE HOST HAD COME TO THE SURFACE OF THE WATER HE HAD SHUNNED EARLIER THAT MORNING, TO LEAD HIS GUESTS AND HIS BUTLER IN A MACABRE SWIM...
THE END

WRIST WATCHES [illegible] H YOUR

FAVORITE [illegible] OMIC ST[illegible]S

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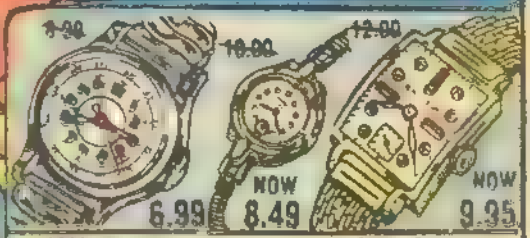

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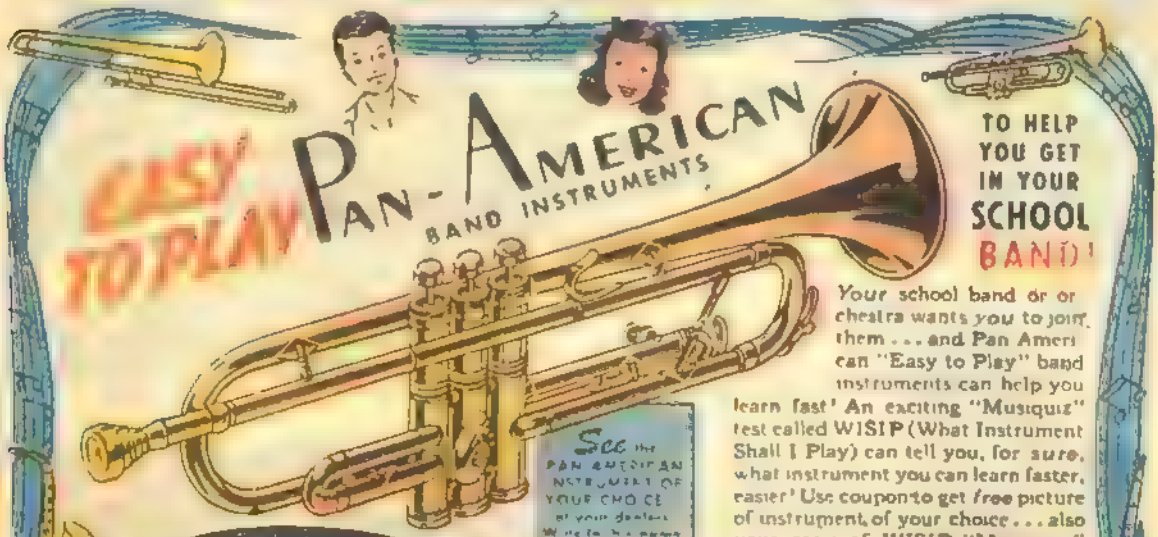

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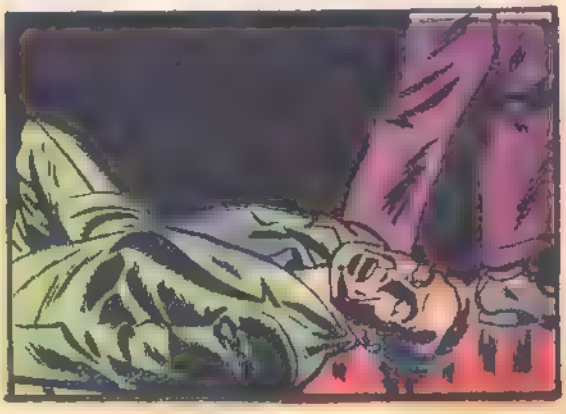
TALES OF HORROR

THE WITNESS!

THE GUN THUDDED DOWN. HE CRUMPLED TO THE FLOOR...BUT THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO...

HE LAY THERE, DEAD... **MY BEST FRIEND!** I STRAINED FORWARD, TUGGING WITH ALL MY STRENGTH. **IF ONLY I COULD GET AT THE MAN WHO HAD KILLED HIM!** BUT I COULD NOT... A QUIETLY, THE MURDERER TIP-TOED OUT...



THAT LAST SCREAM OF HIS KEPT RINGING IN MY EARS... BUT OURS WAS THE LAST HOUSE ON THE LAST STREET OF A LOVELY SUBURB, OUR NEIGHBORS HAD MOVED TWO WEEKS AGO... SO NOBODY ELSE COULD HAVE HEARD IT... EXCEPT **THE MURDERER AND ME...!** THE NEXT MORNING, MRS. DONAGHUE LET HERSELF IN THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR. MRS. DONAGHUE WAS THE CLEANING WOMAN...

QUICK... GIVE ME THE POLICE! **A MAN'S BEEN MURDERED!**

THE POLICE CAME... THEY TURNED THE PLACE UPSIDE DOWN... LOOKING FOR CLUES. **IF ONLY I COULD HAVE SPOKEN TO THEM ---- BUT I COULDN'T...!**

YEAH, I KNOW THE STIFF. HIS NAME WAS LOU FALLON... HE USED TO BE IN THE RACKETS. HE'D BEEN STOOL-PIGEONING FOR A WHILE NOW. SOMEBODY MUST'VE GOTTEN WISE...

YOU CAN SAY IT'S A REGULAR GANG KILLING, NO SUSPECTS YET, NO CLUES.... NOTHING! AND OFF THE RECORD, WE GOT AS MUCH CHANCE OF CATCHING THE MURDERER AS YOU HAVE OF MARRYING GRETA GARBO!

JUST THEN ONE OF THE DETECTIVES BEGAN WALKING TOWARD **ME!** HE WAS A SQUAT MAN WITH TIRED EYES. HE STOPPED THEN FOR A LONG MOMENT HE JUST STOOD THERE, CHEWING A FRAYED TOOTHPICK. THEN HE STEPPED CLOSER...

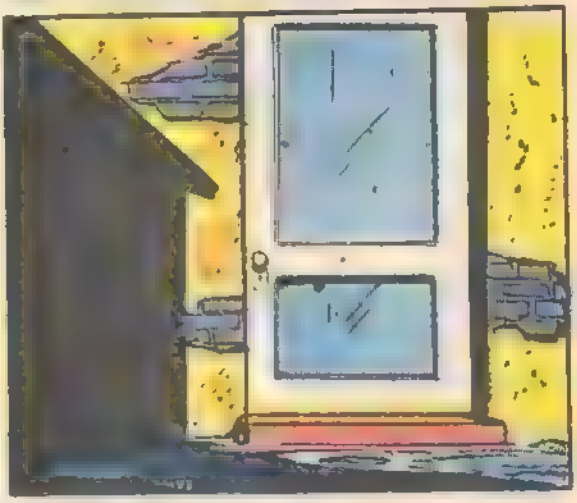
I WAS **FREE!** BEFORE THEY COULD GRAB ME, I WHIZZED THROUGH THE DOOR...

CALL DOWNSTAIRS! **DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY!**

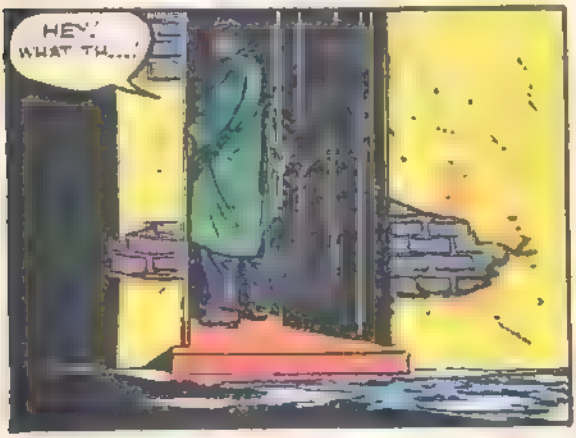
SOMEBODY YELLED DOWN FROM A WINDOW! THE COP STATIONED OUTSIDE THE HOUSE TRIED TO GRAB ME... BUT I SWERVED, AND HE MISSED. **AND I GOT AWAY! NOW AT LAST, I WAS GOING TO DO SOMETHING...!**

I KNEW THE MURDERER...AND I KNEW WHERE HE LIVED! I TOOK A SHORT CUT... THROUGH TWISTING ALLEYS, OVER SPLINTERY FENCES, ALONG JAGGED RAILINGS...

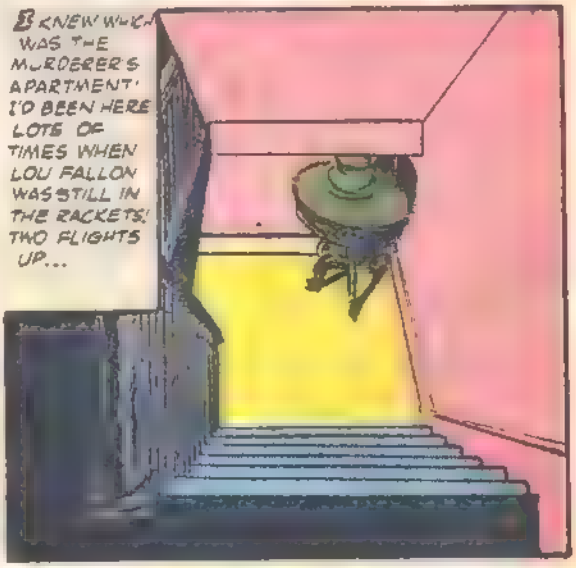
THE DOOR OF HIS HOUSE WAS LOCKED! I COULDN'T RING AND I COULDN'T PUSH IT OPEN. I HAD TO WAIT PATIENTLY IN THE SHADOWS...



I DIDN'T HAVE LONG TO WAIT... SOON A MAN CAME UP THE STREET. HE STOPPED BEFORE THE MURDERER'S HOUSE, AND REACHED IN HIS POCKET FOR HIS KEYS... THE DOOR WAS STILL SWINGING BEHIND HIM WHEN I PUSHED MY WAY THROUGH...



I KNEW WHICH WAS THE MURDERER'S APARTMENT! I'D BEEN HERE LOTS OF TIMES WHEN LOU FALLON WAS STILL IN THE RACKETS! TWO FLIGHTS UP...



I MADE NOISES OUTSIDE HIS DOOR. I WAITED... THEN I MADE MORE NOISES... THEN I HEARD HIS FOOTSTEPS... SLOW, CAUTIOUS, BUT CURIOUS. THE DOOR OPENED...

BUT IT WAS! I WAS LOU FALLON'S DOG! I'D BEEN CHAINED TO THE WALL DURING THE MURDER... BUT THE DETECTIVE HAD SNAPPED THE CHAIN OFF MY COLLAR AND NOW I WAS FREE TO AVENGE MY BEST FRIEND'S DEATH!

DOORWAY TO DARKNESS

JONAS COREY was a clever man. He was also a hard, ruthless and treacherous man. But you'd never believe that if you saw him. Stout, ruddy-faced, with a twinkle in his eyes, and a smile on his face, Corey looked more like Santa Claus after a shave.

Far into the night, Corey would sit quietly at his old-fashioned rolltop desk. His office was an old warehouse, and his business was as old as crime. He was a receiver of stolen goods.

Usually, as he sat at his desk and pored over an old ledger filled with meaningless numbers, he would be listening . . . listening for the stealthy step on the old wooden stairs that led up to his office. Some petty thief would be bringing him a watch, a portable radio or any of the hundreds of stolen items that found their way into his hands. But this night was a special night. He listened with a tense expectancy. Ricky Saunders was coming to visit him.

The word had gone out that Saunders needed him for a special business transaction. Corey did not need to inquire as to its nature when he sent word to Saunders he would be available. He had his own ways for getting information. And the information was that Saunders had the Gilroy diamonds.

Now Saunders was coming to see him, nine months after the diamonds had been stolen. Corey chuckled, his whole flabby body shaking as he did. Saunders was broke and hunted by the police. That was the condition Corey liked to have his clients in when he dealt with them. And when his plan had been worked out, Saunders would be paid off in death.

Corey looked up from his desk and glanced around the room. At the farther end, partly blocked by several crates which cast a shadow over it, was the door. Opening outwardly into the darkness beyond, it was much like any door leading to another room. But this one lead to an open shaft that once had served the warehouse's elevator.

A stealthy creak of the wooden floor outside the door made Corey turn back to his old ledger. Softly, the doorknob turned. The door opened and someone stepped into the room, shutting the door noiselessly.

Corey did not look up. He was thinking, "A dead man has come to see me . . . only Saunders doesn't know he's dead, yet."

Aloud, Corey said, "You don't have to be so careful, Saunders."

"You got eyes in back of your head?" Saunders asked in a hoarse voice.

"No," Corey replied. "I got ears. This building is so old, I can hear anyone coming up the stairs long before they get here."

"You got a rat trap here," Saunders said, moving closer to the desk.

Corey swiveled around in his chair and faced his visitor. "Depends on how you look at it." He jerked his thumb toward the back of the room, toward the door. "Take a look that way."

"Saunders' nervous eyes flicked in the indicated direction, then back to Corey. "A door?"

"That door is another way out of here," Corey smiled. "A trap with two ways of getting out isn't much of a trap, is it."

"Maybe you're not so dumb," Saunders admitted.

"I heard you coming in from the moment you entered this building," Corey explained. "Now if it had been a cop—I'd have been gone long before you reached this floor."

"You'd hear a cop a couple of floors below?" Saunders asked.

"Years of practice . . . patience . . . training myself to hear and identify every sound. No magic about it," Corey laughed good-naturedly. "I had to develop this trick to stay in business. Cops come here all the time . . . to look around. Long before they're on my floor, I've got all the hot stuff hidden away."

"Well, I got to admit you've been around."

"I have. So I'm not afraid of cops."

"Just the same, I'd rather not be around when the coppers pay you a visit," Saunders said, glancing around into the dark corners of the room with a nervous shrug of his shoulders.

"The sooner we get through our business," Corey suggested "the sooner you can get out."

"Yeh," Saunders replied. He reached into his pocket and pulled out a dirty kerchief bound tightly into a knot. He tossed it to the desk. "That's it."

"The Gilroy Diamonds?"

"All of them," Saunders said, glancing around. "This place gives me the creeps."

Corey did not listen to him. With shaking fingers, he undid the knots and opened the kerchief in front of him. His fat fingers caressed the glittering gems.

"The word I got," Saunders said, "was that you'd pay twenty grand for the stuff."

Corey looked up, sharply. "What's that? Twenty grand? Who said that?"

"Here and there, some of your stooges,"

Saunders replied.

Corey snorted contemptuously. A jeweler's glass in his eye, he bent over the precious stones.

"They're the real stuff," Saunders said.

"Beautiful," Corey murmured. "But I'll never be able to get rid of them."

"Do I get the twenty grand or don't I?"

Corey did not reply. He cocked his head to one side, listening.

"Well?" Saunders asked. "Cut out the stalling . . ."

Corey held up his hand. "Keep quiet!"

Saunders' eyes turned hard, alert. "What's up?"

"Anyone follow you here?" Corey asked.

"No. I made sure."

"Someone's coming up the stairs," Corey announced sharply. He listened for a moment. "Two of them!"

"This is an old building. It's full of all kinds of noises . . ."

"I know every sound in here," Corey said. He knotted the diamonds in the kerchief and pushed it toward Saunders. "Here, take this stuff and get out."

"Give me the dough!" Saunders said. "I don't want the ice." As Corey hesitated, he added, "I came for the dough and I'm getting it."

Corey shook his head, and the next instant found himself staring into the mouth of an automatic.

"All right," Corey said. "But all I'll give you is ten grand."

Saunders' face turned white with fury. He stared at Corey in bitter silence for a long moment, saying nothing. His eyes filled with hatred.

"Make up your mind," Corey said. "I can hear the footsteps on the second landing. They'll be coming up to this floor in another minute."

"All right," Saunders said. "Ten grand."

Corey pulled a paper wrapped packet out of his desk and handed it to Saunders.

"Get out the back way," he said, jerking over his shoulder toward the rear door.

Saunders stuck the gun into his belt. He weighed the packet of money in his hand, thinking. "If you're trying to put something over on me . . . I'll come back."

"I'll be here," Corey replied. "Now get going, and close the door behind you."

Corey turned to the kerchief on his desk. Behind him, he heard Saunders' swift steps across the room. Corey's fingers caressed the stones through the cloth. But his mind was drinking in every sound behind him.

He heard the creak of the hinges as the door was opened . . . he heard the startled gasp . . . the instinctive cry for help as it trailed down and into echoing silence.

He relaxed. The shaft was too deep for him to hear the thud of Saunders' body landing below. He had no need to hear that. This was not the first man to step off into the shaft . . . not the first who had walked out with a packet of old papers cut deceptively to the size of money . . . not the first to die leaving a fortune in his hands.

Then he heard the sound of footsteps on the stairs. There had been no one there when he tricked Saunders into walking into the elevator shaft. Now there was someone coming up, slowly, painfully. But this was no figment of his imagination.

With swift dexterity, he wrapped up the diamonds and slipped them into a secret compartment in his desk. He turned, a smile on his face as the door opened.

Saunders was standing in the doorway!

Fear twisted the smile from his face! The chair crashed as he sprang to his feet!

Saunders held out to him the now opened packet of old newspapers.

Through his shattered, bloody face, Saunders said, "You double-crossed me!"

"A mistake!" Corey cried out. "I gave you the wrong package!"

"It wasn't no mistake," Saunders said, advancing toward him slowly.

"I'll give you the cash," Corey pleaded, backing away. "Ten grand! No . . . twenty grand! Cash! In small bills!"

"I said I'll come back!" There was no anger in his voice. "I'm back, Corey!"

Corey backed away, pleading. His mind was working furiously. "My plan didn't work!" he was thinking. "I got to figure something out! Got to gain time!"

Step by step, Corey went back as Saunders advanced on him. The crates were at his elbow now . . . back he went . . . each footstep groping carefully. And then he knew he was near the door of the shaft. He stepped back again and felt the empty space behind him, and fell backwards.

The air rushed past him swiftly. His brain was numb with the knowledge that he was going to die in another instant.

Then he hit the bottom! Strangely, there was no pain, just a dull, clinging softness against which he felt himself pressing.

Corey could move one hand. He touched another body lying beside him. He was conscious enough to realize that this must be Saunders!

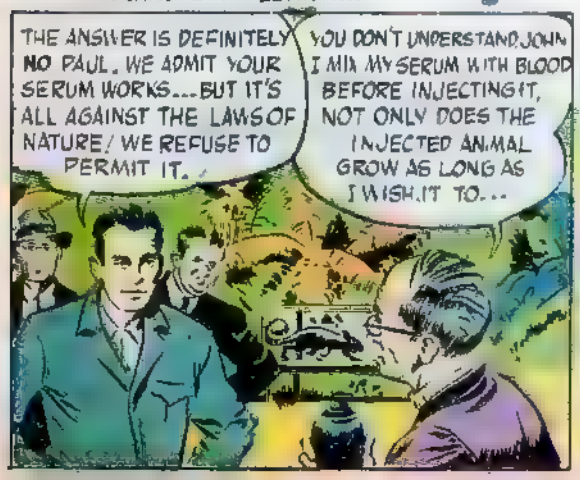
A happy thought came into his mind. "My plan did work, after all!" His thoughts began to slip away from him. "Saunders is dead here beside me! He couldn't have come upstairs to me!"

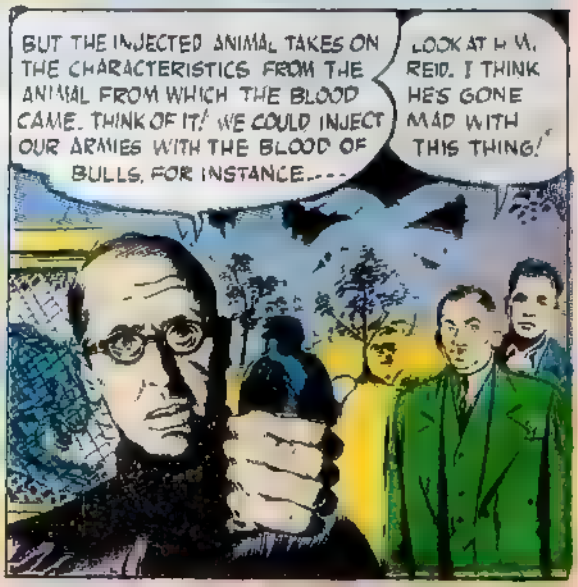
He tried to remember who did come to him upstairs but couldn't.

Then blackness swept over his mind . . . forever!

the DEATH SHIP
A TRUE MYSTERY OF THE SEA!
IN 1860, THE WHALING SHIP "HOPE" SKIRTED THE MIGHTY ANTARCTIC ICE FIELDS, SIGHTED A STRANGE SCHOONER DRIFTING ON THE SOUTHERN OCEAN ..
ORDER THE LONGBOAT OVER THE SIDE. I'M GOING TO BOARD HER BOSUN!
I DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS O' HER, CAPTAIN. THERE'S THE SMELL OF DEATH AND EVIL OVER HER!
FROM HER LOOKS, I'D SAY SHE'D BEEN CAUGHT IN THE ICE FOR MANY A YEAR!
AYE SIR! AND FROM THE CREAK AND GROAN OF HER, I'D SAY SHE'S BEEN ON A DEATH CRUISE!
ACROSS THE SILENT DECKS CAPTAIN BRIGHTON LED THE WAY TO THE CREW'S QUARTERS.
'TIS A CURSED SHIP WE'VE BOARDED, CAPTAIN!
AYE BOSUN! THESE MEN ARE DEAD! AND FROZEN SOLID TOO I'LL WAGER!
CONTINUING THEIR SEARCH THEY ENTERED THE CAPTAIN'S QUARTERS.
A DEAD CAPTAIN OF A DEAD SHIP!
THE LOGBOOK, BO'SUN! PERHAPS WE'LL LEARN WHAT HAPPENED HERE!
LOG BOOK
MAY 4, 1823
Still locked in the ice - crew all dead - no food for 7 days - I am the last man alive
THEY'VE DRIFTED FOR 37 YEARS! WE... LEAVE THESE MEN IN PEACE... TO SAIL ON INTO ETERNITY!
SOME UNSEEN CURRENT TURNED THE DERELICT'S BOW. THE MEN OF THE WHALER "HOPE" KNEW ONLY THAT SHE CAME OUT OF THE ICE WITH A DEAD CREW... THEN TURNED BACK TO VANISH IN THE POLAR MISTS - NEVER TO BE SEEN AGAIN!

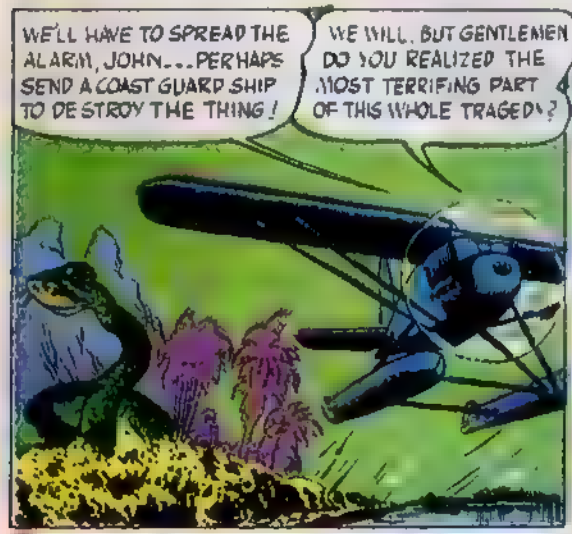
JOHN REID, LEADER OF A COMMITTEE FROM THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH LEAGUE, FACES SCIENTIST PAUL VALE AT VALE'S LABORATORY ON A TINY ISLAND OFF FLORIDA....

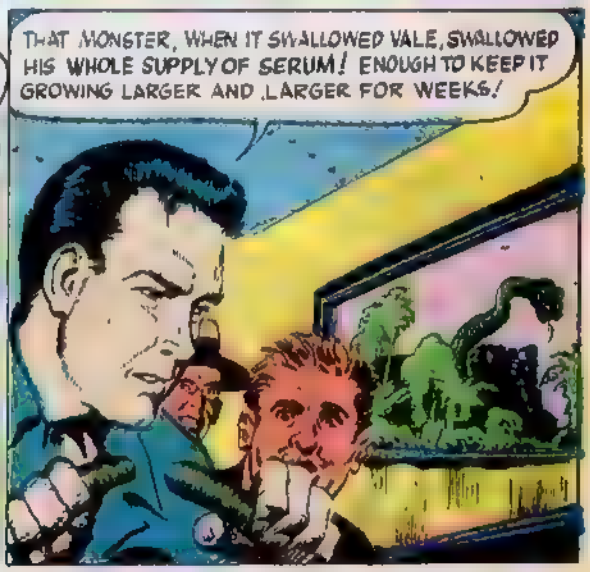


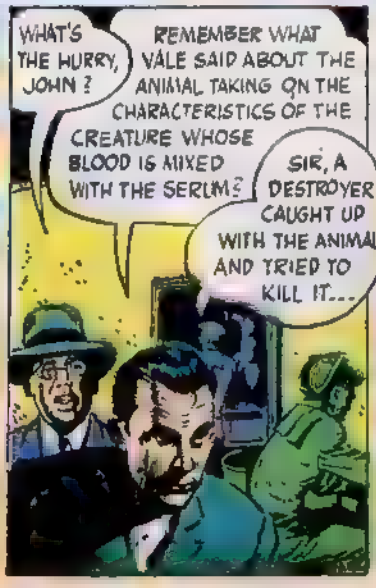


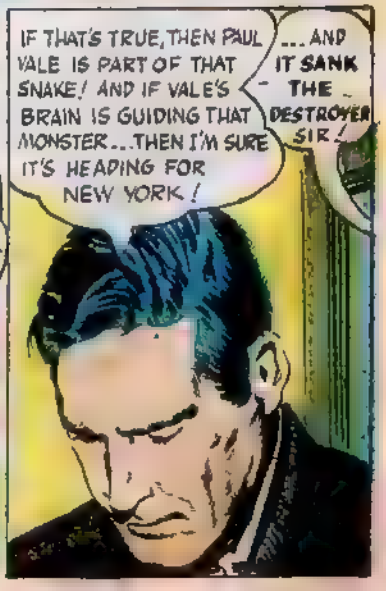
--- AND GET AN ARMY OF SUPER-STRONG, GIANT SOLDIERS! WE COULD RULE THE WORLD!
NO PAUL---IT CAN'T BE, WE'VE DECIDED TO FORCE YOU TO STOP YOUR EXPERIMENT. AND WE'RE GOING TO DESTROY THIS HORRIBLE SIX-FOOT RAT YOU'VE CREATED!
NO! YOU MUSTN'T!
AND YOUR GIANT RABBIT, TOO!
FIVE YEARS OF MY LIFE--- GONE! YOU'LL PAY FOR THAT, JOHN REID! IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO I'LL GET EVEN---!
ONE MORE THING. WHERE IS THE SNAKE YOU USED FOR YOUR FIRST EXPERIMENT?
...IT... IT ESCAPED! BUT I'LL GO FIND IT. YOU JUST WAIT HERE AND---
WAIT, PAUL. WE'RE TAKING YOU BACK TO NEW YORK. YOU NEED A DOCTOR!
THINK I'M CRAZY, DO YOU? WELL, I'LL SHOW YOU! YOU'LL NEVER CATCH ME IN THAT JUNGLE. I'M GOING TO STAY HERE AND FINISH MY EXPERIMENT! AND THEN I'LL COME TO NEW YORK AND PROVE IT!
DON'T RUN PAUL, WE'RE YOUR FRIENDS!
AND I'LL FIND YOU JOHN REID! I'LL GET EVEN WITH YOU!
GOOD LORD IN HEAVEN-- LOOK!
NO! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
PAUL! PAUL! LOOKOUT! BEHIND YOU!

THE SCIENTISTS REACH THEIR PLANE SAFELY, AND TAKE OFF









SEVERAL DAYS LATER, IN JOHN REID'S LABORATORY IN NEW YORK....

BUT JOHN, YOU'RE WORKING YOURSELF TO DEATH / THERE HASN'T BEEN A SINGLE REPORT ABOUT A SNAKE IN THREE DAYS NOW, AND...

I STILL INSIST IT'S COMING HERE! VALE'S LAST THOUGHTS WERE OF COMING TO NEW YORK TO SHOW THE WORLD, TO GET EVEN. ESPECIALLY WITH ME!

NOW I'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO WORK. I MUST HAVE AN ANTIDOTE READY... SOMETHING TO MAKE A LIVING CREATURE SHRINK, THE OPPOSITE OF VALE'S SERUM!

BUT...OH WELL IF YOU MUST, JOHN, THEN WE'LL PITCH IN AND HELP!

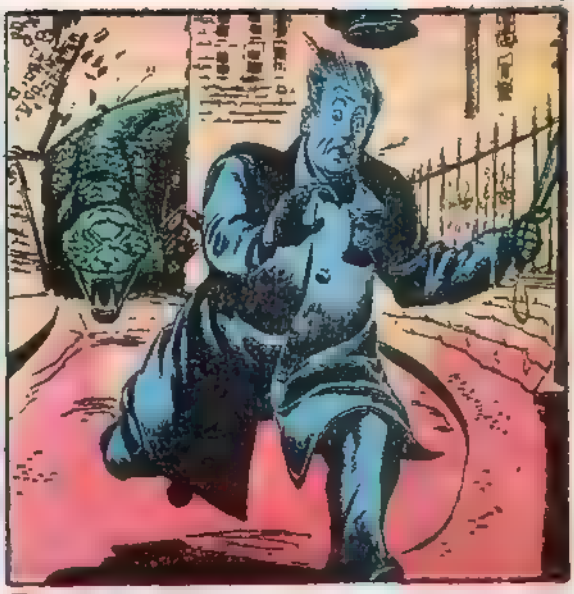
AN HOUR BEFORE DAWN OF THE NEXT DAY, ONLY THE MOAN OF THE DISTANT FOGHORN DISTURBS THE NIGHT. THE WATERS ARE BLACK, STILL AND SILENT. BUT LOOK AGAIN... NOW THE WATERS ARE SWIRLING, HEAVING...

AND SUDDENLY A MONTROUS, NIGHTMARISH HEAD RISES FROM THE DEPTHS!

SLOWLY THE BIG SNAKE DRAGS IT'S FANTASTIC LENGTH INTO THE STREETS OF MANHATTAN... WHERE MILLIONS OF UNSUSPECTING PEOPLE LIE SLEEPING!

A LONELY POLICEMAN WALKS HIS BEAT NEAR THE WATERFRONT. SUDDENLY HE RAISES HIS EYES, AND...

WHA...???!!! GLORY BE, IT CAN'T BE..BUT IT IS!

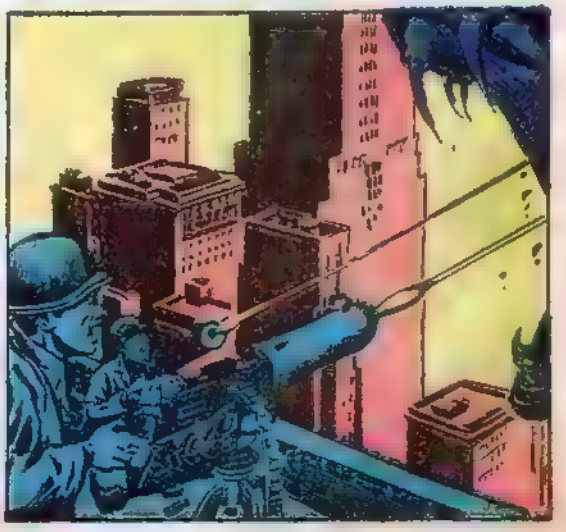


IN NO TIME, THE GREAT PANIC IS ON!

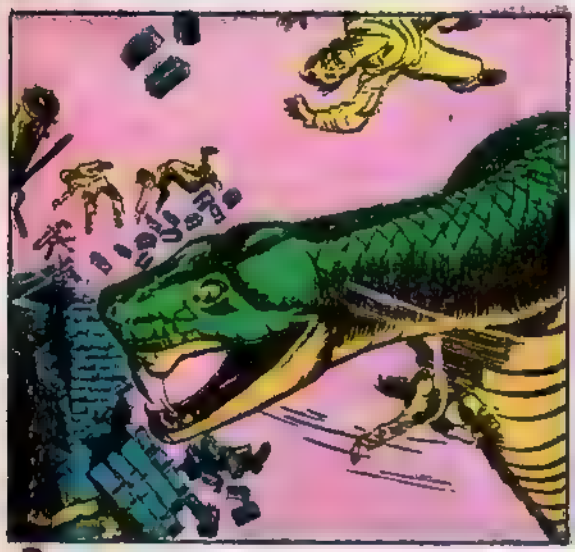
POLICE ATTACK THE INVADER WITH EVERY WEAPON AT THEIR COMMAND....

BUT THE GIGANTIC MONSTER IGNORES THEIR PUNY EFFORTS!

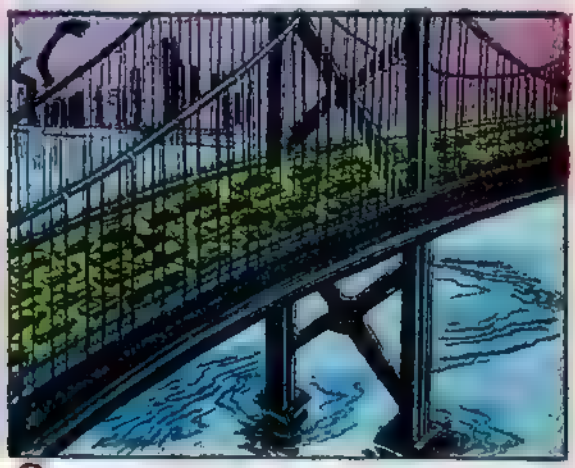
THE NATIONAL GUARD IS CALLED. BUT THEIR HEAVY MACHINE GUNS ONLY SUCCEED IN ENRAGING THE SNAKE...



AND DOZENS OF MEN DIE IN THE HOPELESS BATTLE!



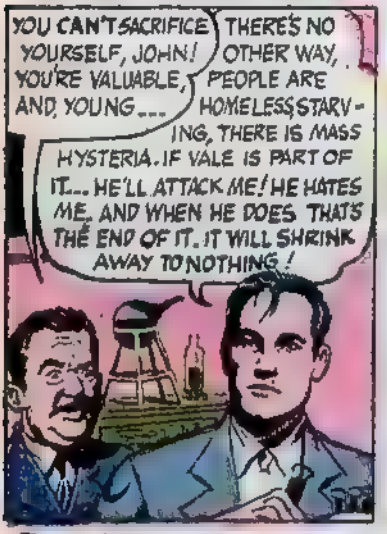
THE RELENTLESS GIANT CRAWLS TOWARD MIDTOWN, CRUSHING ALL BEFORE IT. BY EVENING, MILLIONS OF PEOPLE JAM THE BRIDGES AND TUNNELS, MANHATTAN ISLAND IS EVACUATED!



IN WASHINGTON, THE MILITARY HIGH COMMAND IS IN A DEADLOCK....

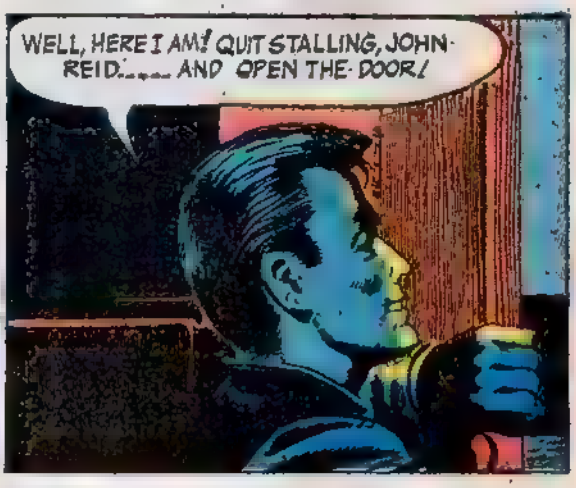
DAWN OF THE NEXT DAY REVEALS THE BIG SNAKE COILED AROUND THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING, THE TALLEST STRUCTURE IN THE WORLD! IT'S MASSIVE UGLY HEAD WEAVING THROUGH THE SKY OVER MANHATTAN... VICTORIOUS OVER THE WHOLE CITY!

IN JOHN REID'S LABORATORY A MOMENTOUS DECISION HAS BEEN REACHED.



ALONE, JOHN REID WALKS THE EERIE, DESERTED STREETS OF MANHATTAN. REACHING THE HUGE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING....

HE CLIMBS THE EMPTY, ECHOING STAIRS TO THE OBSERVATORY ROOF, NEARLY ONE HUNDRED FLOORS ABOVE THE GROUND, AND....

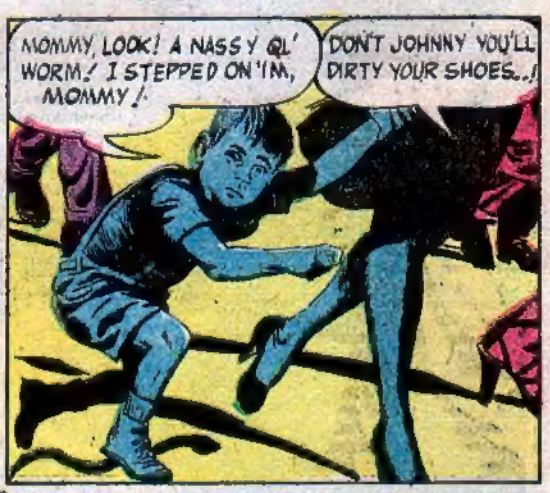


AT THE MOMENT, BACK AT THE LABORATORY....

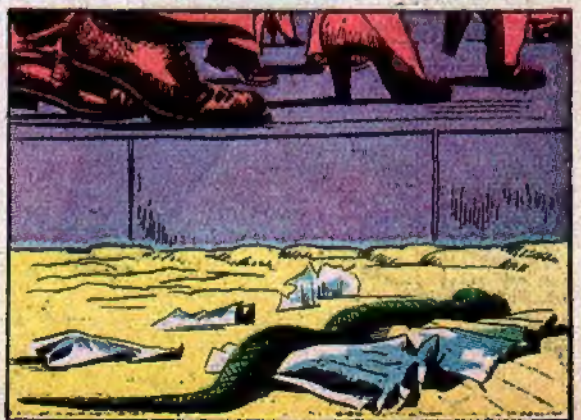
AN HOUR PASSES, AND THEN A RADIO MESSAGE IS FLASHED TO THE WAITING WORLD....

AND NEW YORKERS THRONG BACK INTO THEIR STREETS IN A HOLIDAY MOOD!

TWO HOURS LATER, ON FIFTH AVENUE, A LITTLE BOY IN THE HAPPY CROWD SPOILS HIS MOTHER'S CELEBRATION....



AND SO, FORGOTTEN IN A DUSTY GUTTER, THREE LIVES COME TO AN END... PAUL VALE, BRILLIANT MAN WITH AN INSANE DREAM; JOHN REID, WHO GAVE HIS LIFE FOR THE PEOPLE AND THE CITY HE LOVED... AND ALL THAT IS LEFT OF THE GIANT MONSTER THAT CAPTURED A CITY... THE BIG SNAKE!



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2 PHONES ONLY $1

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SENDS! RECEIVES!
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Thrills & Fun Galore!

If by some magical means you could talk with your neighbor and friends—without electric wires, without batteries or electric current, wouldn't you pay $100 or more? Well you can do just that and the entire cost to you is only ONE DOLLAR for TWO "Space Commander" Walkie-Talkies. Not just a toy—but an amazing communication system. NOW you can talk back and forth from house to garden, between rooms, between your house and your friends'. How thrilling to "speak thru space"!

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This latest, newest 1953 model is a well made product of the world's largest manufacturer of Walkie-Talkies. Uses highly sensitive Vibromatic design. Each phone is self-contained and sends as well as receives messages, songs, music, etc. which travel over the conductor line for hundreds of feet, clear and distinct. Requires no license. Will not interfere with radio reception. Works equally well indoors or out.

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Send only one dollar, cash, check or money order and your Walkie-Talkies will be shipped on 5 day home trial—instantly! Easy to use directions—even a 5-year-old child can do it! Enjoy them with your family and friends for 5 whole days free of any obligation to keep them . . . entirely at our risk! If you're not thrilled and satisfied in every way your dollar comes right back! Supply limited! Rush order now! Don't lose this big bargain! Mail coupon TODAY!

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Beautiful DeLuxe CAGE

I'll be happy to send you this cheerful, talking PARAKEET (sometimes known as a "BUDGIE" Bird) that looks like a miniature talking parrot with bright colored feathers WITHOUT YOU PAYING A PENNY. In fact, I'll also include a large, plastic cage. Parakeets are small, clean and healthy. You have a choice of beautiful Blue, Green or Yellow plumage. Simply help us get new customers by handing out only 20 get-acquainted, photo enlargement coupons FREE to friends and relatives as per our premium letter. I enjoy my bright colored, talking Parakeet so much. It is wonderful company and so easy to care for, that I'm sure you will love one yourself.

Please send me your favorite snapshot, photo or Kodak picture when writing for your Parakeet. We will make you a beautiful 5 x 7 inch enlargement in a handsome "Movietone" frame SO YOU CAN TELL YOUR FRIENDS about our bargain, hand-colored enlargements when handing out the get-acquainted coupons free. Just mail me your favorite snapshot, print or negative NOW and pay the postman only 19c plus postage when your treasured enlargement arrives and I'll include the "Movietone" frame at no extra cost as my get-acquainted gift. LIMIT of 2 to any one person. Your original returned with your enlargement and frame. Also include the COLOR OF HAIR AND EYES with each picture, so I can also give you our bargain offer on a second enlargement artfully hand colored in oils for natural beauty, sparkle and life, like we have done for thousands of others.

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